

SOUTH DAKOTA GUARD TAKES TOP HONORS AT ARMY TEN-MILER RACE

DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • WINTER 2008

WELCOME HOME

114th Fighter Wing and Battery B
return from Iraq

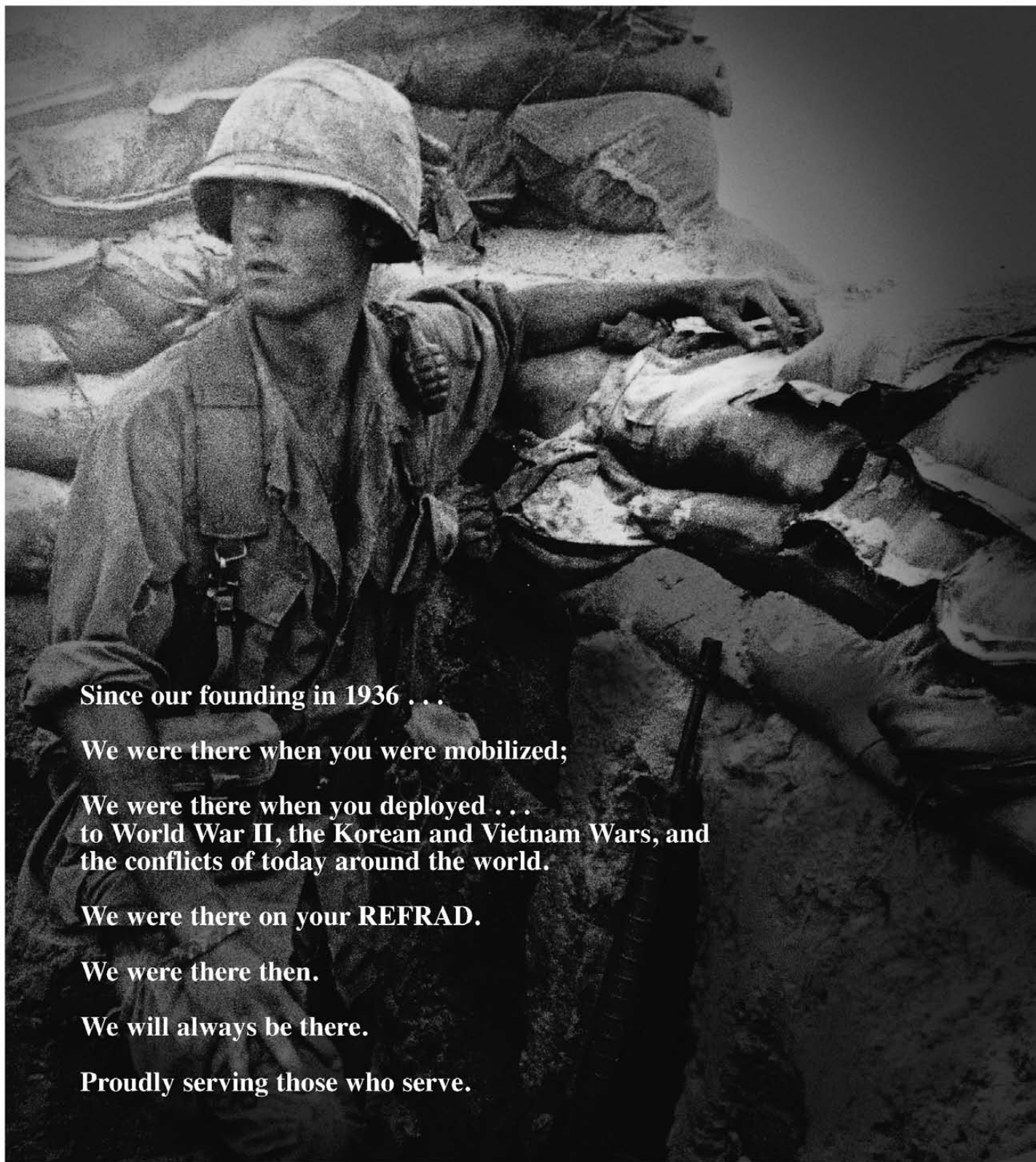


« EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

82nd CST cleans up after Hurricane Ike

« LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

First class of Soldiers graduate from
inaugural WPCS class at the 196th RTI



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Submissions: Print and photo submissions of general interest to members of the SDNG, their families, civilian employees, veterans and retirees are invited and encouraged. Please send article and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to: anthony.deiss@sd.ngb.army.mil, 605.737.6978. Submissions are subject to editing. Electronic submissions are preferred and digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

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Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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On the cover

Maj. Chris Johnson, a member of the 175th Fighter Squadron, is reunited with his wife Tracy and sons Nicholas, Lucas and Jacob after his unit returned home to Sioux Falls, S.D., from a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in September. (Air Force photo by Lt. Col. Reid Christopherson)

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for another outstanding year. As this year comes to an end, I cannot help but sit back and reflect on what a busy year it has been for the South Dakota National Guard. I have had the great fortune to see most of our Soldiers and Airmen in action this past year and I am truly impressed with your professionalism and the way you go about your jobs.

This last year, I traveled to Afghanistan, Iraq and a number of different countries to visit our deployed Soldiers and Airmen. It was very rewarding on my part to see and hear all the great things our military

members have accomplished while deployed. The South Dakota National Guard has earned a great reputation over the years for being the go-to state when they need something done right the first time. All of you can take a great deal of pride that this tradition continues on. I realize all of this does not happen without a lot of hard work on your part and I thank you for that.

As I look to the future, we are going to continue to be busy with mobilizations and increased operations tempo. The National Guard has transformed from a strategic reserve to an operational force. Because of this, we must be willing to adapt to our

new environment and look for new and better ways to focus our efforts on what is really important and that is to have the best trained Soldiers and Airmen possible.

Gloria and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, both military and family members, for the sacrifices you have made in the defense of our country and we want to wish everyone a happy and Merry Christmas.



Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL-ARMY

I wonder at times if we use the term Citizen-Soldier too loosely and have grown complacent in the expectations of our role in this nation and state. We recently welcomed home the heroes of Bravo Battery and soon will be sending more warriors off in support of our National Guard's federal mission.

Right in the middle of all of this came a blizzard that crippled over half of our state. But true to our claim, our National Guard was ready. As we discussed the possible

missions in a conference call, I began to wonder if the public realizes what it takes to prepare our Soldiers for times like these.

It is important that all of us, whether past or present tell the story - the story of our readiness and the story of the family members who support us whether we are plowing snow, rescuing stranded motorists, delivering dialysis patients to hospitals or operating half-a-world away in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The addition of the Dakota Pack

magazine to help tell our story is another valuable tool, but it is crucial that we all continue to tell the Guard story.

As we enter into the holiday season, please be certain to add to your list of thanks not only our freedom, but the family members and employers who support us daily.



Brig. Gen. Keith Corbett

STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

We've heard a lot about 'change' throughout the presidential election. Now, there's a rumbling to change or overhaul the way we train our noncommissioned officers.

According to a recent article in the Army Times, the Army will begin educating mid-level, senior-enlisted Soldiers more like officers. Here are just a few of the changes that can be expected.

- Starting in August with Class 60, sergeant major candidates will be challenged to get out of their tactical comfort zones and learn leadership at the operational and strategic levels. The Sergeants Major Course will adopt the syllabus of the Intermediate-Level Education (ILE) course for majors,

shifting from tactical instruction to a strategic and operational focus.

- The Advanced NCO Course (ANCOC) for sergeants first class (E-7) will become the Senior Leader Course and have train-ahead, problem-solving classes for jobs above an NCOs' grade. Some tasks from the First Sergeants Course will migrate into this course. Instruction will be given on platoon- and company-level operations.

- The Basic NCO Course (BNCOC) for sergeants and staff sergeants (E-5/E-6) will become the Advanced Leader Course and has train-ahead tasks for squad and platoon-level operations. The four-day field exercise is out; four days of simulation training is in.

- Warrior Leader Course (WLC) for

privates first class through sergeants (E-3/E-4/E-5) will be more 'leader focused' with training in counseling and team and squad-level operations to better suit the seasoned students who have deployed.

So, why make all the changes?

The enlisted Soldiers represent about 80 percent of the force, and with Army leadership predicting at least another decade of persistent conflict, these Soldiers and NCOs will be called upon to perform



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Michael Bekaert**

increasingly sophisticated tasks.

I feel that when a command sergeant major takes the reins, he is expected to be the 'go-to' guy and I think the gap has become closer between what the sergeant major and what the commanders do. The dimension they operate in is much broader than before.

Some feel that taking NCOs to the field for four days and making them hump a ruck is probably a waste of their time and talent.

Instead, we can run them through four days of simulations, 40 or 50 scenarios that will stimulate their brains instead of their feet.

I have been asked many times, why do we keep using a compass when we have GPS?

Our youth are more intelligent, in a different way, than when I came out of school. Our children are educated differently, so we can't just say, "Go out and do it because I said so." They're inquisitive; they

want to know the 'WHY.'

So we're changing the Army training philosophy to what we call outcome-based training so they understand the why and the how and the actual experience of doing it.

On behalf of my wife and daughters we would like to keep thanking you for your sacrifices and service to this state and country. We would also like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season!

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL-AIR

The United States Air Force and the Air Reserve Components including the 114th Fighter Wing have been at war since the first Gulf War in 1990, continuing through the enforcement of the No Fly Zone over Iraq to the present time with Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Many changes have occurred during the noted time frame to include the development of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF). The AEF is a process for tasking the aviation/maintenance units in meeting the Air Force mission while providing predictability regarding timing. The Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) is a companion process to AEF and includes the support functions that would normally be associated with and required by an AEF to include security, logistics, engineering, communications, services, personnel and medical.

During the past year and several months (Oct. 2007 thru Dec. 2008), the 114th Fighter Wing has deployed numerous times in response to AEF and ECS taskings as well as other taskings including humanitarian, OJS, ARC-V, and training requirements to include:

Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS):

- Nov. - 1 to Qatar for 63 days,
 - 1 to UAE and Iraq for 365 days
 - 1 to Germany for 45 days
- Feb. - 31 to Kyrgyzstan 179 days (Partial Mobilization)
- Apr. - 1 to Qatar for 179 days (Partial Mobilization)
- May - 25 to Iraq, Qatar and Kyrgyzstan for 120 days
 - 8 to Curacao for 120 days
 - 1 to Germany for 123 days
- Jun. - 8 to Iraq and Qatar for 30-40 days
 - 1 to UAE for 179 days (Partial Mobilization)
- Jul. - 2 to Kyrgyzstan for 40 days

- Aug. - 4 to Kyrgyzstan for 40 days
 - 1 to Germany for 31 days
- Sep. - 1 to UAE for 120 days
- Nov. - 1 to Germany for 120 days
- Dec. - 53 to Kuwait for 179 days

Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEF):

- Mar. - 2 to Iraq for 52 days (supporting MTANG)
- Apr. - 5 to Iraq for 52 days (supporting IA & NYANG)
- Jun. - 43 to Iraq for 103 days (supporting NY & SD)
 - 1 to Germany for 103 days (supporting NY & SD)
 - 3 to Germany for 52 days
- Jul. - 250 to Iraq for 52 days

Operation Jump Start (OJS):

- Oct. - 9 to OJS in NM, AZ, & JFF; 3 on orders thru 15 Jul 08
- Mar. - 45 to San Diego for 2 weeks

Air Reserve Component Volunteer (ARC-V):

- Oct. - 5 supporting Offutt, Ellsworth & Grand Forks various tour lengths from 55 days to 365 days
 - 5 home station support to backfill 114th FW Security Forces during mobilization

Other Unit Deployments:

- Jan. - 175 to Hickam AFB, HI for 3 weeks. Sentry Strike/Aloha
- Mar. - 118 to Barksdale AFB, LA for 2 weeks. Green Flag East
- Apr. - 2 to Honduras for 2 weeks supporting humanitarian mission
- May - 1 to Bolling AFB to support 2009 Presidential Inauguration
- Jun. - 45 to Hickam AFB, HI for 2 weeks
- Jun. - 35 to Montana for 2 weeks

Almost every deployment is processed by our Personnel and Cargo Deployment Function and then is sent directly from Joe Foss Field to the AOR without intermediate mobilization stations or additional training. A staff of 25 personnel is responsible for successfully coordinating and completing

the deployment/redeployment processing.

In addition, Family Readiness and our volunteers have been available to help fill the void created as a result of our deployed member's absence by providing community outreach including phone calls and letters to family members to answer questions concerning the deployment, focusing on positive solutions to any issues, and explaining the reintegration process.

Expressed another way, in the past 15 months, the men, women and the families of the 114th Fighter Wing have responded to and answered our nation's call:

- At least 35 different times
- To at least 8 different countries and 11 states
- Involving 900 unit members and their families
- Amounting in excess of 55,000 man-days or 150 man-years

Wow! What an accomplishment! Thanks to each of you and your families for your sacrifice.

With minor exception, the 114th will be home for the holidays. A 'Welcome Home' ceremony was conducted for the 'best of the best' and their families during the November UTA....a well earned time together with family and friends. Even though we welcomed many home, the process will continue following Christmas as more of our best deploy.

May God bless each of you - now and throughout the year.

Welcome home!



Brig. Gen. David Holman

1st Battalion, 147th FA & FSC receive notification of deployment

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery and the 147th Forward Support Company received official notification Saturday, Oct. 4, for a one-year mobilization and deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The South Dakota Army National Guard units will mobilize more than 370 Soldiers in April of 2009 to conduct a security force mission in Iraq. The unit is expected to report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete all required mobilization training prior to deployment to Iraq.

This security force mission will not be the traditional mission of the field artillery unit that is equipped with the multiple-launch rocket system. The traditional mission of the unit is to provide high-mobility automatic systems capable of delivering precision counterfire and suppression of enemy air defenses, light materiel, and personnel targets at ranges from 15 to more than 300 kilometers.

The notification of 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery and the 147th Forward Support Company supports the Army Force Generation Model that directly supports the Army's new force structure and is designed to achieve a sustained, more predictable posture to generate trained and ready forces. The model is designed so National Guard and Reserve forces can expect to deploy for up to a year once every five years. This new model will bring more predictability to Soldiers, their families and their employers.

Units and Locations:

- Headquarters and Headquarters Section, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Watertown and Sisseton.
- Battery A, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Aberdeen.
- Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Salem and Sioux Falls.*
- Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Yankton.
- 147th Forward Support Company is located in Mitchell, Sioux Falls and Webster.

* NOTE: Battery B, 1st Battalion,

147th Field Artillery was notified of the deployment, but will not be part of the deployment. Battery B has returned from Iraq and none of its recently deployed members are considered part of this mobilization.

Mitchell Soldier dies in work-related accident

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Staff Sgt. Harlan Jay Niewenhuis, 58, Stickney, died Friday, Sept. 19, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls from injuries received in a work-related accident that took place Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Combined Surface Maintenance Shop in Mitchell.

Niewenhuis is survived by his wife, Linda (Ligtenberg), and his four children; Brandon and wife Stacy; Lance and wife Robyn, all of Brandon; Sarah Reyelts and husband Terry; and Miranda Peschong and



Staff Sgt. Harlan Jay Niewenhuis

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husband Kyle, all of Mitchell.

An initial investigation report indicates that Niewenhuis, who was working at the shop as a maintenance technician since November 2007, received his injuries from a fall while working from a ladder on one of the facility's overhead garage doors.

Verchio takes command of the 139th BSB

BROOKINGS, S.D. – Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Verchio, Hill City, took command of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, during a change of command ceremony Saturday, Oct. 4, at the local armory in Brookings.

Verchio took over the responsibilities from former commander Lt. Col. Thomas Croymans, Aberdeen, who served in the command position since the unit reorganized in June of 2007.

The 139th Brigade Support Battalion is comprised of about 560 Soldiers that make up five units located in eight communities across the state.

Lt. Gen. McKinley approved to lead the National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Air Force Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley was confirmed Thursday, Oct. 2, as the 26th chief of the National Guard Bureau by the U.S. Senate.

He will also become the first four-star general in the nearly 372-year history of the National Guard.

The current director of the Air National Guard, McKinley was nominated by the president in September based on the recommendation of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.



Lt. Col. Anthony Verchio



Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley

He succeeds Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, who was also confirmed by the Senate to become the first National Guard deputy commander for the U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM). Blum has served as chief of NGB since 2003.

As chief of the National Guard Bureau, McKinley will be the senior uniformed officer representing nearly 468,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen.

He will also serve as the principal advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on National Guard issues.

Air National Guard hosts exercise with community partners

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota Air National Guard hosted an All-Hazards Response training exercise on Sept. 9-11, at Joe Foss Field.

The three-day training course focused on the directives of Homeland Security and National Preparedness and included participation from the National Guard, city leaders of Sioux Falls, emergency management personnel and incident responders.

Officials from the U.S. Air Force Headquarters, the National Guard Bureau and the Federal Emergency Management Administration were also in attendance.

"This was a great opportunity for our unit to interact with community partners to test our emergency-response skills," said Col. Russ Walz, base commander of the 114th Fighter Wing, South Dakota Air National Guard. "We interact with the responder community on a regular basis and have cultivated strong relationships. In light of today's environment we all need to be prepared to support one another in a crisis."

The goal of the exercise was to validate contingency-response plans and determine how agencies will prevent and respond to crisis situations that could occur within the state of South Dakota. The curriculum offers training for exercise development and evaluation, along with a full-scale exercise including a pandemic flu response.

A consultant firm to the Pentagon, L3 Communications, which is directed under the National Incident Management System and the National Response Framework, facilitated the training and the exercise.

The South Dakota Air National Guard was one of five nationally selected units to host this training in 2008.

Guard dentist returns from duty in Iraq

BROOKINGS, S.D. – Brookings dentist Konard Hauffe returned home in late October after a three-month deployment to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is the state dental officer for the Medical Command of the South Dakota Army National Guard.

Stationed at Camp Liberty in Baghdad, Lt. Col. Hauffe, served as the dental officer for several medical task forces that provided healthcare to U.S. and coalition military forces, DOD civilians, contractors, and detainees at theater-internment facilities and reconciliation centers.

Hauffe began his duties in Iraq on July 20 and returned home Oct. 23. This was his second deployment to Iraq having deployed with Company B, 109th Medical Battalion from February 2003 to July 2003.



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World War II facility to be replaced after 66 years

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Retirement is quickly approaching for one of two remaining World War II facilities at Joe Foss Field. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Tuesday, Oct. 7, for a new civil-engineer complex.

The existing civil-engineer facility is a remodeled grouping of connected buildings built during the development of the Sioux Falls Army Air Forces Technical School in 1942.

The new \$7.5 million complex will be constructed by Golden Rule Construction of Sioux Falls. The building contains more than 30,000 square feet of craftsman shops and administrative offices. It will serve as the headquarters for the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron of the South Dakota Air National Guard. The estimated completion date for the project is October 2009.

The existing World War II facility will be demolished following completion of the new complex. After that time, only the original World War II aircraft hangar will remain as a testimony to the legacy of the Airmen that served in Sioux Falls nearly 70 years earlier.



CAD rendering from architect Jeff Nelson of Baldridge & Nelson Architects & Engineers, Inc.

SDNG closes Lemmon and Custer armories

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota National Guard announced on Tuesday, Sept. 16, that it is closing its armories in Lemmon and Custer and will consolidate the units into other communities; Lemmon in Spearfish, Sturgis and Belle Fourche; and Custer in Rapid City and Sioux Falls.

“It is the National Guard’s responsibility to ensure our Soldiers have the absolute best training possible,” said Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard. “By consolidating these units, I believe we are doing the right thing for our troops.”

Doohen said by consolidating the 842nd Engineer Company (Lemmon) and the 235th Military Police Company (Custer) to more centralized locations, National Guard leaders will be able to maximize resources and training capabilities, and develop a more cohesive team that will be ready when a crisis or disaster strikes.

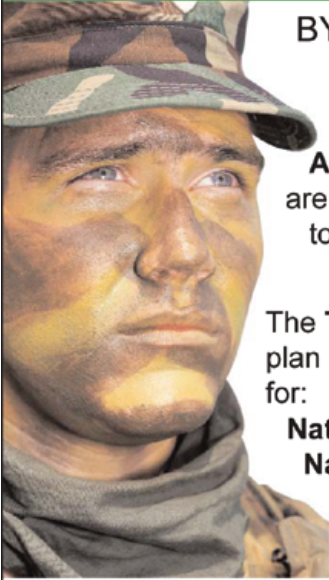
“By consolidating these units, our Guard will be able to respond with a higher level of readiness and capability,” said Doohen.

The Lemmon and Custer armories will close within the 2009 fiscal year, which begins on Oct. 1, 2008, and ends on Sept. 30, 2009. The units’ headquarters will work out the details for the move.

The Lemmon armory is co-located with

the Lemmon School District and the Custer armory is co-located with the Custer Middle School.

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Bartunek finds Guard's treasured past preserved in neighbor's home in Huron

By Roger C. Anderson
Information Officer

RAPID CITY, S.D. – When Todd Bartunek moved to Huron to work for the National Guard nine years ago, he had no idea that tales of the 1st Dakota Cavalry would ‘come to life’ in the house across the street.

While striking up friendships, Bartunek learned that his neighbor, Lauren Miner, was the great-great-grandson of Capt. Nelson Miner – one of the first volunteers and organizers of Dakota Territory's first military organization.

“I met his father, Nelson Miner, at a fish fry and listened to him tell cavalry stories that were passed down to each Miner generation,” said Maj. Bartunek. “He carried his great-great-grandfather's name and had a real passion for preserving his family's heritage.”

To verify the tales, Bartunek went to his office and referred to Richard Cropp's book entitled, “The Coyotes: A History of

the South Dakota National Guard.”

“Sure enough, right there on page 39, was a story of Capt. Nelson Miner who was the commander of Company A, 1st Dakota Cavalry in 1862. He was a great leader - one that could be counted on to get things done,” said Bartunek.

Reading about Capt. Miner sparked Bartunek's interest because, like Miner, he was then commander of Company A, 153rd Engineer Battalion. Listening to more stories and going through some of the handed-down keepsakes, he was most impressed with an original painting of the Plains Indian fighter.

In April, Bartunek moved to Rapid

City to become the commander and administrative officer for Joint Force Headquarters. In a special presentation before he left, Nelson Miner surprised him with a framed copy of that original painting.

“I'll keep it in my office as a reminder of the quality of Soldiers our organization was developed upon,” said Bartunek. “We can learn a lot about character and leadership from stories about those ‘Coyotes’ from our past.”



Maj. Todd Bartunek stands next to a copy of an original painting of Capt. Nelson Miner.

Article from Richard Cropp's “The Coyotes: A history of the SDNG”

“Well boys, it looks like we had better charge.”

— Capt. Nelson Miner, 1st Dakota Cavalry

The kind of man who will bring on a death-or-glory ride with a remark such as the one quoted, is obviously not the screaming and swearing type of commander. Obviously too, he is a man who will keep his head and do the reasonable thing in emergencies. Such a one was Nelson Miner, captain of horse, and commander of the 1st Dakota Cavalry.

Miner was born in Ashland County, Ohio, in 1824. In 1852, he organized a party at St. Joseph, Missouri, and with it crossed the continent to the California goldfields. There he prospected for a year before returning “east.” There followed a period as a lawyer – justice of the peace at Adel, Iowa – and steam-boating interests on the Missouri.

With the opening of Dakota Territory, Nelson Miner moved from Sioux City to just-born Yankton. When Governor Jayne called for volunteers, Miner was one of those authorized to enlist recruits. So successful was he that the governor commissioned him captain of Company A, and in time he commanded the 1st Dakota Cavalry, composed of Company A and Capt. Tripp's Company B.

Nelson Miner led his outfit for three years. General Sully considered him to be a field officer and used him in posts of responsibility and danger. Mild mannered and gentle-spoken to a degree, he seemed far from the swash-buckling beau sabreur of tradition. Nevertheless, in a gentlemanly way, Miner has as much “cavalry spirit” as anyone, and when there was action his Coyotes were in the front row, and Miner in front of them, sword in hand. His men admired him and so did his commanding general, and that is enough for anyone. (Illustration by Richard Cropp)



FREEZE-FALL

The Guard helps dig out state in aftermath of fall blizzard

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota National Guard was called out to help support state emergency management agencies in the aftermath of a fall blizzard that paralyzed western South Dakota on Thursday, Nov. 6.

“Our Soldiers and Airmen were there when called,” said Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, the adjutant general. “Our Guard members are always ready to hit the road and support our state’s emergency management agencies, save lives, and ease suffering.”

Prior to the storm hitting the state with more than four feet of snow, Army and Air National Guard leaders from across the state focused on preparing Soldiers and Airmen to respond to missions the Guard might receive from the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management. Guard officials prepared to respond to search and rescue missions, snow removal support, power restoration support, power generator equipment requests, and aerial observation missions using National Guard rotary and fixed-wing aircraft.

Two snow blowers with crews from the Guard’s Task Force 114 from Sioux Falls were dispatched on Nov. 7 to support snow removal west along Interstate 90 toward Rapid City, while Task Force 196, also from Sioux Falls, supported TF114 in providing transport of the snow blowers and two 10-ton recovery wreckers with crews to support the clearing of the interstate. The interstate was completely opened for travel later that evening.

Over the next several days, Soldiers from the Rapid City based Task Force 109 continued to operate three of these snow blowers and one loader in Meade and Butte Counties.

Task Force 881, based in Sturgis, supported power restoration efforts in Harding County by blazing access trails with four D7 bulldozers. The dozer teams, along with recovery and maintenance crews, assisted Grand Electric and Western Area Power Association restore services to residents.

Two D7 bulldozer teams with support crews from TF109 supported La Creek Electric’s efforts to restore power to residents in Shannon County.

On the evening of Nov. 7, a National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and crew successfully conducted a medical evacuation of four civilians, three of which require dialysis, from Wanblee to the Pine Ridge Hospital. In addition, one UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and crew supported a reconnaissance mission with Governor Mike Rounds and other emergency management officials to assess ground conditions over western South Dakota.

“Our greatest resource is our people and their ability to respond,” said Doohen. “Our team is always standing by.”

More than 100 Soldiers and Airmen of the state’s 4,200 available Guard members supported emergency management agency operations.

National Guard support is based on the needs and requirements vetted through the Office of Emergency Management, which is the lead agency for all state emergency response.



Chief Warrant Officer Brian Dreyer and Capt. Kathy Dirk from the South Dakota National Guard’s Joint Operations Center on Camp Rapid coordinate response measures on Friday, Nov. 7, to a blizzard that shut down much of western South Dakota a day earlier. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews)



South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers move snow with a snow blower Friday, Nov. 7, along Interstate 90 after the first blizzard of the season caused massive drifting over major roadways throughout western South Dakota. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews)

AT THE 'READY'

New building puts the 82nd CST in a position to respond quickly

By Roger C. Anderson
Information Officer

RAPID CITY, S.D. – It was a historic event as military leaders from the South Dakota National Guard and Ellsworth Air Force Base conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the official opening of the 82nd Civil Support Team's new 'Ready' Building Wednesday, Oct. 29, on Ellsworth Air Force Base.

The 'Ready' Building marks the first time a South Dakota National Guard facility has been built at Ellsworth.

The 13,000 square-foot facility will house the unit's 22 members and equipment and contains approximately 13,000 square feet of space. The state-of-the-art facility consists of vehicle storage bays, administrative offices, classrooms, and unit storage areas.

Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, said the building illustrates the cooperation between the community, the National Guard and the Air Force base.

"It's a great relationship, and I'm sure there are plenty of good things to come," he said.

Doohen said the new building is a big improvement from the 82nd's former facilities at Camp Rapid. Previously, the team's equipment was housed in three older buildings at Camp Rapid that were outdated for today's needs.

"The unit only has 90-minutes from the time it's notified to the time it must be in the air, so it's really important to have a facility like this close to a runway," he said.

The 82nd Civil Support Team, one of 55 teams across the U.S. and its territories, is mainly designed to augment local and regional terrorism-response capabilities in events known or suspected to involve weapons of mass destruction.

Col. Scott Vander Hamm, commander of the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth, also applauded the teamwork between all the entities involved in bringing the building and the 82nd to the base.

"This project demonstrated the importance of good relationships at all levels between the Guard and the Air Force. It's great to be part of this joint team," he said.

The facility represents joint operations on two levels. First, the 82nd CST is a joint organization comprised of Army and Air National Guard service members. Secondly, the activation of the facility marked the first time a South Dakota National Guard facility has been built on Ellsworth Air Force Base.



▲ The official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the 82nd Civil Support Team's new 'Ready' Building was held Oct. 29, at Ellsworth Air Force Base. Cutting the ribbon are Col. Scott Vander Hamm, commander of the 28th Bomb Wing, Box Elder Mayor Al Dial, Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard and Maj. John Emick, 82nd CST commander. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews)

TRAINING WITH PAINT

More than 40 members of the Rapid City-based Joint Force Headquarters, South Dakota National Guard, participated in combat land-navigation training on Sunday, Oct. 5, at West Camp Rapid. The event combined land navigation with a capture-the-flag paintball competition with the purpose to hone basic Soldier skills and develop cohesive teams.

"The event was a blast," said Maj. Todd Bartunek, commander of Joint Force Headquarters. "It was great training and an overall fun event for the troops."

Bartunek and 1st Sgt. Diann Deyo, the senior enlisted Soldier in the unit, said anytime they can make training fun, it pays off.

"Soldiers thrive on this type of challenge," said Deyo. "When they have great training, they look forward to coming to drill the next month."



➤ Sergeant 1st Class Michelle Jennings and Sgt. Michael Reiprich, both of Rapid City, plot their route during the combat land-navigation course held on Oct. 5, at West Camp Rapid. (Army photo by Maj. Orson Ward)



➤➤ Sergeant Brian Morgan (right) and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Scharn, both of Rapid City, attempt to outflank an opposing team during the combat land-navigation course held Oct. 5, at West Camp Rapid. Soldiers had to find a number of marked points on the course, defend their flag, and try to capture the other three teams' flags while avoiding being hit by a paintball. (Army photo by Maj. Orson Ward)



➤ Staff Sgt. Shane Hoenke, Rapid City, moves with his team to its first point during the combat land-navigation course held Oct. 5, at West Camp Rapid. Soldiers had to find a number of marked points on the course while avoiding being hit by a paintball. (Army photo by Maj. Orson Ward)

➤➤ Members of the Rapid City-based Joint Force Headquarters, South Dakota National Guard, participate in combat land-navigation training on Sunday, Oct. 5, at West Camp Rapid. The event combined land navigation with a capture-the-flag paintball competition with the purpose to hone basic Soldier skills and develop cohesive teams. (Army photo by Maj. Orson Ward)

BATTLE OF THE BLADES

» Sgt. Matt Hess tells how bulldozer training is done for the 842nd Engineer Company at the S.D. National Guard unit's open house on Saturday, Sept. 13, north of Spearfish. The 'Battle of the Blades' challenges junior heavy-equipment operator's skills led by senior Soldiers and adds fun to serious training. (Photo by Milo Dailey, Belle Fourche Post/Bee)



Members of the 842nd Engineer Company (Horizontal), South Dakota Army National Guard, hosted its sixth annual Battle of the Blades/Slashing Steel 2008 on Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Spearfish City Rubble Site, north of Spearfish on Highway 85.

The event consisted of senior heavy-equipment operators coaching junior operators through a series of courses designed to challenge the team's operation and communication skills.

The heavy equipment involved in the competition included the bulldozer, scraper, road grader, dump truck, tractor/trailer and excavator.

A pre-operation equipment inspection is conducted by the operator on each piece of equipment prior to the event. All equipment involved has been used by the 842nd in blizzards, floods, and fires in South Dakota, as well as overseas in Iraq.

The Battle of the Blades began in 1997 as a multi-faceted challenge where junior operators learn specific operation techniques for each piece of equipment. Senior operators learn how to verbally convey their intentions instead of getting on the equipment and demonstrating.

The leadership has an opportunity to evaluate the capabilities of their operators by acting as judges of the events. Each course is designed to be achievable, yet remain challenging at the same time.



» It takes heavy equipment to build roads and move dirt, and the Northern Hills area's 842nd Engineer Company of the S.D. National Guard had an in-house competition on Saturday, Sept. 13 to prove it. Pfc. Harry Payne of Nisland is riding shotgun on the dozer driven by Sgt. Matt Hess of Spearfish as tractor/trailers tackle a muddy obstacle course. (Photo by Milo Dailey, Belle Fourche Post/Bee)

AFTER THE STORM

The Guard assists in pollution recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Ike

By Capt. Anthony Deiss
Public Affairs Specialist

PASADENA, Texas – Fuel and propane tanks, along with barrels of toxic chemicals, are just a few of the environmental hazards that threatened the Texas Gulf region in the wake of Hurricane Ike.

For several weeks in late September, the South Dakota National Guard's 82nd Civil Support Team scurried to locate these displaced pollutants and identify its contents as well as its sources.

The team, consisting of 17 members from Rapid City and five members of North Dakota's 81st CST, was called up on Sept. 25 to help survey the coastal areas, waterways and marshlands near Houston for hazardous material containers.

"We found hazardous material containers everywhere down there," said Maj. John Emick, commander of the 82nd. "The Houston and Gulf Coast area is almost entirely made up of oil and fuel refineries and chemical plants – so there are tons and tons of this stuff."

The Rapid City-based unit worked with a unified command of four federal and state agencies – the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas General Land Office, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency – to efficiently coordinate efforts to assess, contain and clean up spills and hazardous materials caused by the hurricane.

"If we didn't get out there to clean this stuff up it was going to be an even bigger environmental disaster. Some of this stuff is potentially dangerous and can harm people and the environment," said Emick. "The EPA took the lead on finding this stuff and disposing of it properly."

Much progress was made in identifying, assessing and overseeing the cleanup of post-hurricane pollution sites throughout southeast Texas. The types and amount of pollution varied from oil and diesel

» Staff Sgt. Dave Fisher, survey team member for the 82nd Civil Support Team, South Dakota National Guard, stands atop a fuel container after inspecting and marking its contents in the Galveston Bay area of southeast Texas on Tuesday, Oct. 2.
(Army photo by 82nd Civil Support Team)



fuel from boats to industrial chemicals.

According to a National Strike Force (NSF) press release, unified command personnel responded to a total of 2,221 pollution and displaced hazardous material reports. No major oil spills or hazardous materials issues were identified.

During the unit's time in Texas, the unified command had closed 447 cases with 1,774 still open. Ten of these open cases were in the assessment phase.

"These cases are typical of what we find after storm surges and hurricane-force winds," said Althea Foster, the incident commander from the EPA. "They are typically small and are all very manageable."

The CST members were primarily responsible for identifying and marking the hazardous materials and recording their location. They also provided valuable expertise if needed.

Uniquely trained and equipped, the 82nd has at its disposal the latest military and commercial detection equipment and top-notch communications to provide rapid analysis of unidentified substances.



« A beach home sits damaged after the storm surge from Hurricane Ike ripped its foundation away along Galveston Bay, in southeast Texas on Friday, Sept. 26. Members of the 82nd Civil Support Team, South Dakota National Guard, helped inspect homes like this to ensure no environmental hazards such as gas leaks or downed power lines threatened the local population. (Army photo by 82nd Civil Support Team)

While in Texas, the 82nd helped to find and identify on average 15 separate types of hazardous material containers and spills each day – finding everything from 150 gallon fuel containers to 250 pound propane tanks.

“We saw everything from blue industrial garbage cans, oxygen bottles, propane cylinders and overturned trucks,” said Emick. “The teams inspected them, and if there was a leak we’d get a hazardous-material team out to clean it up and stop the pollutants from going into the ground or into the ocean.”

Assessment teams would investigate reports of possible cases of pollution and prioritize the cleanup efforts. Once a reported case was confirmed, the teams worked to identify the source and tried to identify and notify a responsible party.

If a responsible party was identified, that party would hire a contractor to secure the source of the spill and clean up the pollution. If no RP was identified, the government team hired a spill contractor to clean up the pollution. Recovery teams then oversaw the contract cleanup efforts and conducted a final assessment to ensure the area’s cleanliness.

“The civilian populous is where we got a lot of our information concerning the location of these containers,” said Sgt. Keith Bryant, survey team member with the 82nd. “The people really relied on government agencies like FEMA and Texas Emergency Response to help them get through this, and we wanted to help any way we can.”

Because of the vast areas to be surveyed, five CSTs from across the nation were called up in the initial weeks after the storm, with a new team rotating through every few weeks.

The 82nd CST is one of 55 teams across the U.S. and its territories designed to integrate with the Incident Command System to provide a crucial capability between the initial local response and federal assets.

According to Emick, the unit often trains with civil support teams from other states, but admits that this particular scenario is almost impossible to train for. The scope of the pollution recovery operation was so massive that teams had to be flexible in its response.

“We were in North Dakota when the call came for us to report to Texas. With five

guys absent from our team, I was able to grab five guys from the North Dakota team who fit right in with us,” said Emick. “I couldn’t even tell the difference – they all did extremely well.”

The unified command has finalized its plan for oversight of oil and pollution recovery efforts for Texas and will continue to assist local communities with the recovery and removal of displaced hazardous material containers. It is ready to assist with any new pollutants discovered during the salvage and debris-removal process that may continue throughout the next year.

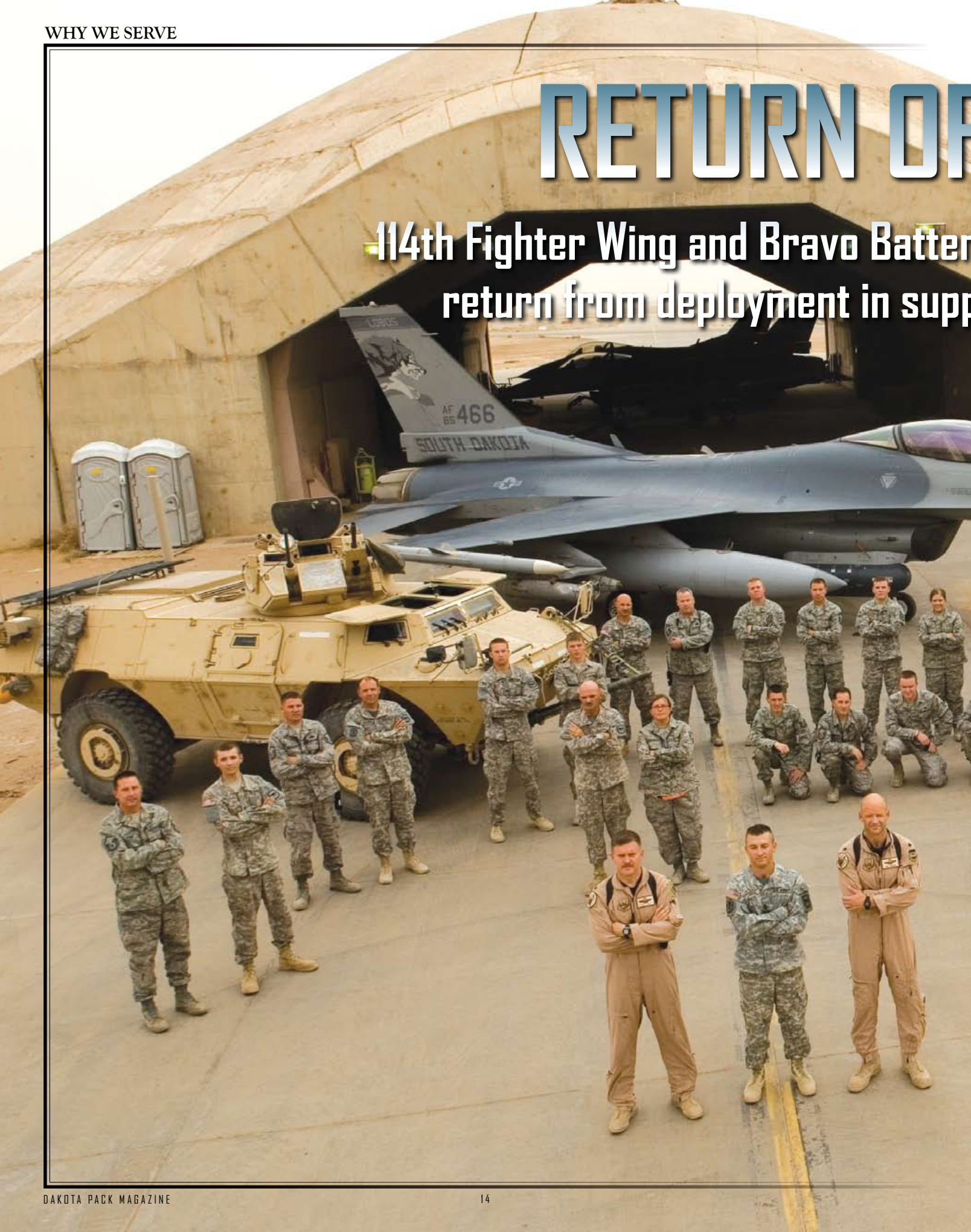
“The people of Texas and their resolve were amazing,” said Emick. “We would drive by peoples’ homes and their belongings were piled up outside because they were ruined, and they could still wave and smile at you.”

» An acetylene tank displaced by the storm surge from Hurricane Ike sits upside down in a home in the Galveston Bay area, in southeast Texas on Friday, Sept. 26. Members of the 82nd Civil Support Team, South Dakota National Guard, inspected and marked hazardous material containers like this to ensure its contents were not leaking. (Army photo by 82nd Civil Support Team)



RETURN OF

114th Fighter Wing and Bravo Battalion
return from deployment in support



THE PACK

ry, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery
port of Operation Iraqi Freedom



➤ South Dakota National Guard Airmen and Soldiers from the 114th Fighter Wing and Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery pose for a snap shot with some of their aircraft and equipment on Sept. 8, at Joint Base Balad while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmunson)

AIRMEN REUNITED

114TH FIGHTER WING RETURNS FROM IRAQ



Photos by Lt. Col. Reid Christopherson
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – More than 275 members from the 114th Fighter Wing, South Dakota Air National Guard, were reunited with family and friends in Sioux Falls on Friday, Sept. 26, after being deployed for several months in support of the United States Air Force's Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation plan.

The Airmen were deployed for varying lengths of time to Joint Base Balad, Iraq supporting Combat Air Force operations. All South Dakota F-16 Fighting Falcon jets that deployed to Iraq in early June also returned to Joe Foss Field.

In early September, 45 Airmen returned from duty in Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Germany. These Airmen also deployed in support of both the AEF and Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) rotation plans.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks on America, more than two-thirds of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 1,023 members have actively supported the Global War on Terrorism either at home or abroad in 15 countries.



▲ Maj. Brandon Eskam, a member of the 175th Fighter Squadron, hugs his children Kailey, Asher and Addison in Sioux Falls, after his unit returned in September from Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



« Staff Sgt. Christopher Portice, with the 114th Fighter Wing, and girlfriend Jennifer Fuoss are reunited in Sioux Falls on Sept. 26, after spending several months separated during the unit's deployment to Iraq.

» Staff Sgt. Paul Doohen, member of the 114th Fighter Wing, laughs with his wife Laura and son Carson on Sept. 26, after the unit returned home to Sioux Falls from a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.




« Staff Sgt. Jessica Meyers, 114th Fighter Wing member, and her husband Nickolas kiss for the first time in several months on Sept. 26, during the welcome home reunion at Joe Foss Field, in Sioux Falls, after her unit return from overseas service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MISSION COMPLETE

BRAVO BATTERY RETURNS AND REFLECTS ON PAST YEAR



Story and photos by Sgt. Theanne Tangen
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

 Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery returned to American soil Thursday, Oct. 23, after spending 10 months overseas in support of Iraqi Operation Freedom. The Soldiers were reunited with family and friends at a welcome home ceremony at the Elmen Center at Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – Hugs, kisses, and tears of joy were shared among the Soldiers and families of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, when they reunited on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Elmen Center at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, after nearly a year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“A year is a long time, a long time to be away from your family and friends,” said Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Lamp of Sioux Falls. “I feel a little apprehensive, but I’m excited.”

The unit completed its deployment accident and casualty free, bringing home all 180 Soldiers who conducted a variety of security missions throughout Iraq.

“We asked these great Soldiers to accomplish a multitude of dangerous tasks, and they performed them brilliantly every time,” said Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, adjutant general for the South Dakota National Guard. “Thanks to great leadership, great Soldiers and great support, we got every one of them back here safe and sound.”

During the deployment, Bravo Battery Soldiers lived approximately 6,700 miles away from home, and dealt with the everyday grime of blowing sand, extreme heat and the dangers of road side bombs.

The unit was unique in that of the unit’s 180 Soldiers, only 40 of them were originally assigned to Bravo Battery. The rest of the Soldiers had to get acquainted and unite as a team faster than most Guard units that develop friendships over the years.

“It was a real challenge to compile all of these men and equipment into one unit, but we accomplished that and had a great group,” said Maj. Kory Knight of Hartford, commander of Battery B.

Leaving South Dakota in October of 2007, the Soldiers trained for two months at Camp Shelby, Miss, to prepare for the deployment to Iraq. Most of the training at Shelby focused on the unit’s security force mission that included learning how to escort convoys in a combat environment.

While in Iraq, the unit initially conducted a variety of security



➤ Sgt. Michael Gohring, of Clear Lake, reunites with his six-month old daughter Gracy during a welcome home ceremony for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Oct. 23, at the Elmen Center at Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

missions to include operating entry/traffic control points and base-defense operations at Convoy Support Center Cedar II.

After three months, the battery's mission changed and required a move less than five miles away to Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base. The new mission was to provide security for logistical convoys.

"The change of mission was nice," said Spc. Jacob Ford of Lead, who served as a convoy gunner. "We got to see a lot of the country, instead of just around the base."

"It was rewarding knowing that we ensured supplies reached its destination so operations could continue throughout theater," said Ford.

The unit continued the mission until its return home, driving more than 400,000 miles during its 10 months in Iraq. In all, the unit conducted 130 convoy escort missions, 87 base defense missions, 185 personal security detachment missions, 75 route security missions, and 15 contractor recovery missions while remaining accident and casualty free.



➤ Staff Sgt. Jason Lunders, of Salem, reunites with his daughters Madlin and Alexis, during a welcome home ceremony for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Elmen Center at Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

« Staff Sgt. Matthew Opbroek, of Yankton, hugs his children Isabella and Christopher, during a welcome home ceremony for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Elmen Center at Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

First class of South Dakota Soldiers graduate from

By Sgt. Theanne Tangen and Pfc. Jacqueline Fitzgerald
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ANNISTON, Ala. – The first class of Warrant Officer Candidates from the 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, the Rising Eagles, graduated on Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Anniston Meeting Center in Anniston, Ala. The class of graduates included nine members from the South Dakota Army National Guard and three from the North Dakota Army National Guard.

The 12 Soldiers were the first to complete the new warrant officer training curriculum offered at the 196th Regiment (RTI) at Fort Meade.

The candidates were part of a larger graduating class of 92 students from across the nation, who completed their final phase of Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort McClelland, Ala., during the month of September.

The graduating class consisted of students from 17 U.S. states and one territory. Currently, 11 of 22 regional training institutes nationwide are participating in the Warrant Officer Candidate Program.

The new phase II course for the 196th RTI is part of an effort by the active-duty Army to give more National Guard operated training institutes the ability to conduct WOCS in their respective states; an initiative started in 2005. The year 2008 was the first year the 196th initiated phase II for WOCS, and has hopes of adding another phase in the future.

“We have a network of 12 new warrant officers who are going to put the word out about the training here,” said Chief Warrant Officer Brett Anderson, of Rapid City and primary Train, Access, Counsel (TAC) officer for WOCS, Training Phase II at the 196th Regiment (RTI). “I see our program growing and maybe someday, in the future, we can conduct phase III training in South Dakota.”

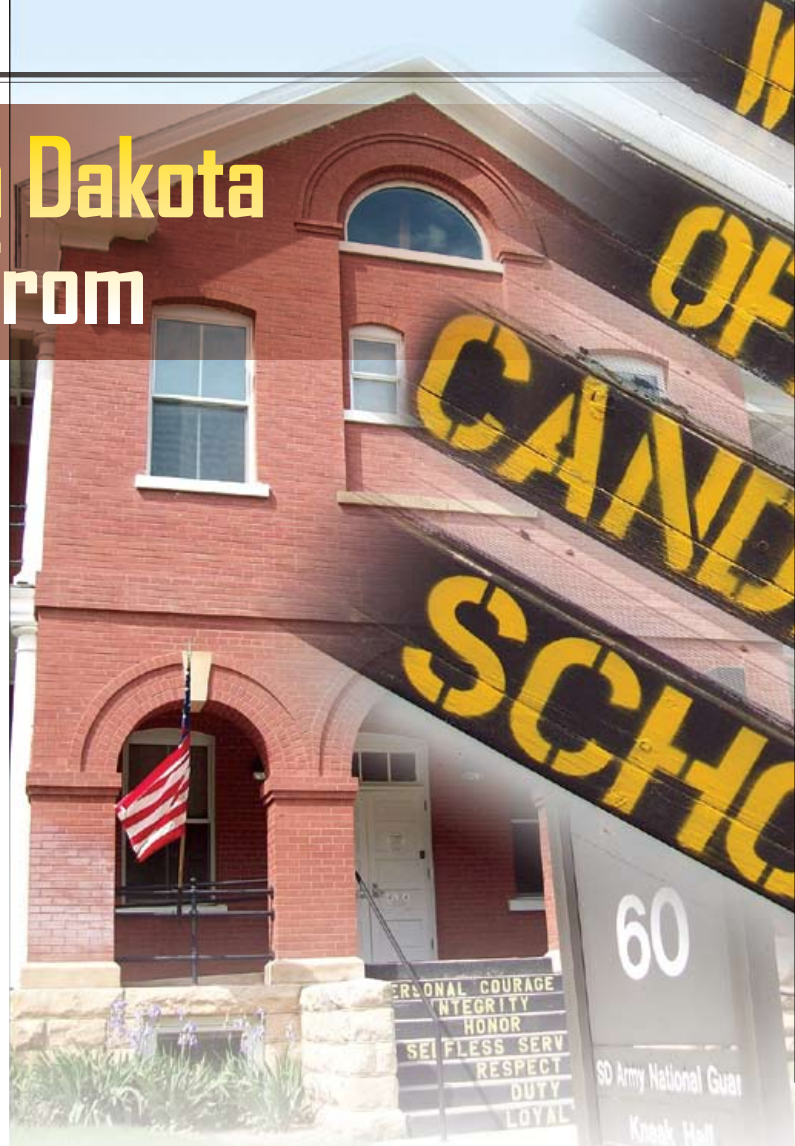
Becoming a warrant officer is a three-phase process.

Phase I is a distance-learning phase where candidates take academic courses on-line about general military topics; ranging from uniform wear and communication skills to the military code-of-conduct and ethics.

Phase II consists of five weekend-drill periods at a state’s respective regional training institute, and covers more academic classroom instruction; such as military and warrant officer history and military organization and operating environments.

Phase III is a 15-day active-duty training period where candidates are pushed to their mental and physical limits with leadership reaction courses, road marches and field training exercises.

All phases of instruction are designed to test the limits and abilities of the Soldier and to ensure they become effective leaders within the National Guard.



Warrant Officer Candidate School Class 08-001: (Back row, left to right) Command Chief Warrant Officer Paul Wilson, class mentor; Christian Johnson, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade; Jeff Saylor, NDARNG; Chandler Raab, NDARNG; Loren Gregerson, Company B, 139th Brigade Support Battalion; James Fleming, 196th Regiment (RTI); Chief Warrant Officer Darla Crown, class mentor. (Middle row) Dustin Masseth, NDARNG; Roger Pollreis, Joint Force Headquarters; Michael Carter, Joint Force Headquarters; Gwen Dungey, 842nd Engineer Company. (Front row) Mark Kehn, 842nd Engineer Company; Brenda Laurenti, Joint Force Headquarters; Sandi Trohkimoinen, Joint Force Headquarters. (Army photo by 196th Regiment (RTI))



» Warrant Officer Candidate Christian Johnson asks Staff Sgt. Michael Streff, 196th Regiment instructor, for advice on the land-navigation course during the Training Phase II portion of the Regional Training Institute's Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Meade. (Army photo by 196th Regiment (RTI))

"Training was extremely intense," said Warrant Officer James L. Fleming, a Rapid City resident with the 196th Regiment (RTI). "It started well over a year ago getting our initial warrant officer packets in place, followed by a training combination of hard work, long hours and, at times, a lot of stress."

Fleming said he chose to become a warrant officer because he wanted to help Soldiers with their problems.

"It is great to be an individual who is a 'go-to' guy and a subject matter expert," said Fleming. "I enjoy that aspect. I like people coming to me and having the opportunity to resolve those issues."

At the graduation ceremony, Fleming was recognized for being on the Commandant's List, graduating in the top 20 percent of the class for his performance during training.

"I was striving for it, and the fact that I was successful at it makes me proud. To have that as a payoff at the end is rewarding," Fleming added.



» Candidates from the 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute's Warrant Officer Candidate course build a frame for the class sign for display in front of the candidate's billets at Fort Meade. The frame will house the class sign for all future warrant officer candidate classes. (Army photo by 196th Regiment (RTI))



» Warrant Officer Candidate Brenda Laurenti fills out a risk assessment sheet for a training event during the Training Phase II portion of the Warrant Officer Candidate course held at the 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute in Fort Meade. (Army photo by 196th Regiment (RTI))

ONE BRICK AT A TIME

Business owners help build foreign relations

DAN AMES »

AMERICAN CONCRETE EQUIPMENT

« FARIK GHAFDERKHAN

EUCON

By Capt. Anthony Deiss
Public Affairs Specialist

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Around the world, the U.S. is facing an ever-changing geo-political landscape with diplomatic uncertainties. To help foster positive foreign relations with democratic nations, the U.S. relies on its states and territories to establish broad-reaching and friendly ties.

Known as the State Partnership Program (SPP), the program links U.S. states and partner nations in support of mutual interests at all levels of society utilizing the National Guard as the catalyzing force and means of support.

With the help of Rapid City business owner Dan Ames, the South Dakota National Guard's SPP was able to get a jump start in developing new contacts and relationships with the South American country of Suriname, just weeks after the program's formalization in August of 2006.

"I've been doing business in Suriname since 2000 and was looking to take a trip to the country," said Dan Ames, American Concrete Equipment company co-owner and business manager. "I met Lt. Col. Tracy Settle, South Dakota-Suriname State Partnership Program director, and he shared information with me on the program."

The SPP has many different focus areas ranging from tourism and agriculture to education and foreign investment, all of which are based upon similarities and interests between South Dakotans and Surinamers. Lt. Col. Settle's introduction to Ames through a Rapid City Chamber of Commerce meeting in August of 2006 helped set the stage for the formulation of the program's first business participants.

"Relationship development is the key to unlocking the power of the State Partnership Program," said Lt. Col. Settle. "Making the connections between interested state and partner contacts is critical for developing a network of key participants for the program."

Through the SPP, institutional and people-to-people relationships are developed with a long-term outlook. The state facilitates local government, academic and economic contacts, as well as National Guard and civilian community involvement in personal contacts with the partner country.

Ames introduced Settle to Surinamese friend and concrete business owner Farik Ghafoerkhan, who agreed to meet with Settle during his first trip to Suriname. What transpired led to a mutual

benefiting relationship for the concrete-block maker and for Lt. Col. Settle.

"Farik provided me with a tour of his facility, a tour of the town and a dinner meeting to discuss other business contacts in Suriname who could benefit from the State Partnership Program," said Settle. "And in return, Farik received an invitation from the U.S. Ambassador to get involved in the program and to meet other high-level American officials and Surinamers alike."

"Farik has been able to get to know other people in his home town as a result of Tracy," said Ames. "And together we have broadened Farik's perception of world trade and American business processes."

The program facilitates linking the right personnel, with the right skills and qualifications, at the right time, to accomplish mutually agreed upon objectives. Some of the major objectives of the SPP are to assist with the development of democratic institutions, foster open market economies to help develop stability, project and represent U.S. humanitarian values, improve military interoperability between U.S. and partner-nation forces and to demonstrate military subordination and support to civilian authorities.

"Cultivating relationships requires numerous and repeated contacts with key leaders on both ends," added Settle. "Meetings, receptions, social events, emails and updates all contribute to the continued success of State Partnership Program activities."

At American Concrete Equipment, the company rebuilds and resells concrete block making equipment. From Latin and South America to Bosnia, the Ukraine and China, the company sells its production making equipment to a variety of businesses all over the world. According to Ames, the world business market is not only vital to American interests, but to the benefit of developing nations.

"The State Partnership Program is necessary because Suriname is developing and it has a lot to offer," said Ames. "It needs to understand how a democracy and a capitalistic society like the United States does business, and the benefits for doing business with South Dakota, the U.S. and the world."

Settle explained the relationships that are forged from these types of introductions and engagements, and through community organizations like the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce, help to set the conditions for a successful program.

"This first in-country contact validated the State Partnership Program from inception," said Settle. "My personal involvement with community activities and business organizations like the chamber provided the exposure to generate contacts for the program. It cannot be done from seven-to-four at the armory."

As businessmen, Ames and Ghafoerkhan use concrete making equipment to allow others to build structures. As SPP participants they use their relationships to help others strengthen foreign relations between the people of South Dakota and Suriname.

"I really enjoyed working with Tracy and having him introduce me to the people he has invited to South Dakota from Suriname," said Ames. "It's been fun talking first-hand a little bit about Suriname and getting to know them and helping Tracy explore opportunities for both."

"They are wonderful people to do business with," concluded Ames. "I think it's an undiscovered resource for business and travel, and it's really going to help having the SPP 'building bridges' in Suriname."

ESGR accepting Freedom Award nominations

National Guard and Reserve members and families encouraged to nominate supportive employers

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is accepting nominations for the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in their support of military employees. Nominations will be accepted at www.freedomaward.mil through Jan. 19, 2009.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Previous South Dakota employers who received the Freedom Award are South Dakota State University in 2005, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks in 2006, and the Winner School District in 2008.

Recipients of the 2008 Freedom Award met with President George W. Bush and Gordon England, deputy secretary of the Department of Defense. Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. David Chu presented the awards at a ceremony attended by members of Congress and senior government and military officials.

The 2009 recipients will be announced in the spring and honored in Washington, D.C., at the 14th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony on September 17, 2009.

For questions regarding the Freedom Award nomination process, please visit www.freedomaward.mil or contact Capt. Lona Christensen, executive director of the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, at 605.737.6540.



Winner School District Superintendent Michael Hanson (second from left) receives the 2008 Freedom Award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 18, from Thomas F. Hall (left), Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs and Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, director, Air National Guard, and Dr. David S. C. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. (Photo by Jason Brunson)

Runners take top honors at this year's

By Capt. Anthony Deiss
Public Affairs Specialist

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Two teams of runners from the South Dakota Army National Guard took top honors at the Army Ten-Miler race on Sunday, Oct. 5, in Washington D.C.

A team of four women captured 1st place in the women's division and a team of five men placed 3rd in the men's division at the 24th annual event.

"The members of the teams are indicative of the quality of the South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier," said Lt. Col. Tim Moran, 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute. "The dedication, discipline and desire of the Soldiers who participate are outstanding, and it's an honor to experience this type of event with the best of the best."

Open to both military and civilian competitors, the event featured 26,000 registered runners and is considered the largest 10-miler race in the U. S. and the second largest in the world. Participants can sign up as individuals or in teams.

"It was awesome to meet other members from our state as well as Soldiers from other states and countries," said Staff Sgt. Richard Harming, 881st Troop Command.

The race is also open to people with disabilities.

"It was absolutely amazing to see all the handicapped athletes that competed and finished the event," said Sgt. 1st Class Corey Rabenberg, Recruiting Command. "That inspires a person to do his best."

The goal of the Army Ten-Miler is to promote the Army, build esprit-de-corps, support fitness goals, and enhance community relations with all proceeds benefiting the Army's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program.

"This race is a great way to honor the Soldiers and their families who can't

ARMY TEN-MILER



➤ Nine members of the SDARNG competed in the 24th annual Army Ten-Miler race on Sunday, Oct. 5, in Washington, D.C., and took top honors by finishing 1st place in the women's division and 3rd place in the men's division. Back row: Sgt. 1st Class Jared Richter, Spc. Eliann Bray, Staff Sgt. Richard Harming, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Steadman, Lt. Col. Tim Moran, Sgt. 1st Class Corey Rabenberg. Front row: 2nd Lt. Maria Fritza, Sgt. 1st Class Michaellette Higgins, Maj. Jonette Murphy. (Photo courtesy SDARNG Ten-Miler Team)

participate because of deployments or have sacrificed their lives for the mission," said 2nd Lt. Maria Fritza, Company B, 139th Brigade Support Battalion.

Starting at the Pentagon, the course crosses the Potomac river, follows through the streets of Washington, D.C., and finishes at the Pentagon – passing such national treasures as the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and the Capitol.

"There is nothing better than lining up at 8 a.m. with 26,000 other runners – with the sight of the Pentagon and the sound of Blackhawks flying over," said Maj. Jonette Murphy, Medical Command. "The feeling you get makes you proud to be in the military."

RUNNERS AND RESULTS

SDARNG Women's Team – 1st Place

Maj. Jonette Murphy – 1 hour, 25 minutes, Black Hawk

2nd Lt. Maria Fritza – 1:26, Gillette, Wyo.

Spc. Eliann Bray – 1:33, Pierre

Sgt. 1st Class Michaellette Higgins – 1:37, Black Hawk

SDARNG Men's Team – 3rd Place

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Steadman – 1:08, Centerville

Lt. Col. Tim Moran – 1:11, Rapid City

Sgt. 1st Class Corey Rabenberg – 1:16, Platte

Staff Sgt. Richard Harming – 1:21, Black Hawk

Sgt. 1st Class Jared Richter – 1:23

Deployed Guard member wins overseas race

By Capt. Anthony Deiss
Public Affairs Specialist

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – When Capt. Rebecca Hoffman isn't busy running around the Middle East providing Soldiers with lifesaving equipment, she's running a race that she says celebrates Soldiers, veterans, citizens, and families – the Army Ten-Miler.

Hoffman, a deployed South Dakota Army National Guard member, won first place in the 30-39 year-old women's division of the 10-mile race on Sunday, Oct. 5, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, and took one step closer to fulfilling her dream of competing in the prestigious race.

"I have always dreamed of racing in the Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C., but haven't had the opportunity," said Hoffman, of Sioux Falls. "When I learned it was going to be held here, I registered immediately."

Because of the popularity of the race – Army installations around the globe hold their own race in conjunction with the race in Washington, D.C.

Camps in theaters of operation – Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Kosovo – host 'Shadow Runs' that take place on the same day and time as the U.S. race; but with the time difference, these races happen before D.C. runners are even at the start line.

The run in Kuwait included more than



« Captain Rebecca Hoffman, a member of the South Dakota Army National Guard and resident of Sioux Falls, received an award for winning first place with a time of 1 hour, 19 minutes and 14 seconds in the 30-39 year-old women's division for the Army Ten-Miler race held on Sunday, Oct. 5, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. (Photo courtesy Capt. Rebecca Hoffman)

800 service members from all branches of the military as well as some coalition members.

Stationed at Camp Buehring, Hoffman is serving overseas as an operations officer for U.S. Central Command's Rapid Fielding Initiative and Army Combat Uniform systems; providing state-of-the-art individual and small-unit equipment to Soldiers at remote locations within CENTCOM's area of responsibility. The equipment enhances Soldiers' lethality, mobility and survivability on the battlefield.

"The most challenging part of my job is knowing that there may be Soldiers, no matter how few, on the battlefield that are

not equipped with all the gear available to them," said Hoffman, who is serving on her second overseas deployment. "Once I have completed a sizing mission to Soldiers, the uniforms and equipment they receive will instantly impact their probability of returning home to their families and loved ones."

And it's these Soldiers and what they stand for that enhances the racing experience for Hoffman.

"The Army Ten-Miler is an unadulterated celebration of freedom, patriotism, remembrance, and the American way of life," said Hoffman. "It's a great race that has always been a tribute to Soldiers."

Black Hills Veterans March Paying tribute to those who've sacrificed

By Sgt. 1st Class Ted De Loy

RAPID CITY, S.D. - The Black Hills Veterans March is a 26.2 mile trek along the Mickelson Trail through the most picturesque terrain of the Black Hills of South Dakota. The march is sponsored by the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association and pays tribute to the many sacrifices our nation's veterans have made in the past and continue to make today.

The legendary Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming is an oasis of pine-clad mountains on the Great Plains. Home of Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorials, the Black Hills offer everything one could expect from a mountain vacation: national parks, scenic drives, waterfalls, abundant wildlife and acclaimed recreational trails.



Three Soldiers grab some water at the 10-mile mark during the Black Hills Veterans March in 2007. (Army photo by Pfc. Jesse Ketzner)

The march begins in the small town of Rochford, population just 14. From here, the march makes its way through the heavily forested mountains where marchers can still see the old rails from the abandoned tracks, cross railroad bridges and pass through tunnels along the route. Much of the trail parallels a stream, and wildlife is abundant throughout the course.

The last mile of the march winds through historic Deadwood, finishing at the Deadwood Rodeo Grounds, which is the site of the awards ceremony.

The Black Hills Veterans March has become a very rewarding and emotional experience for those who accept the challenge. The march is quite difficult, and not everyone who starts the race finishes. Those that complete the 26.2 mile course are physically drained but emotionally pumped at the finish.

Marchers participate for a wide variety of reasons, most of which are for the veterans. Some marchers compete in memory of a loved one that has passed; others just participate in support of the troops currently serving.

Participants often comment that the march was the toughest thing they have ever done. Others say that it was the most rewarding thing they have ever done. The finish offers a crowd of supporters to cheer on the accomplishments of all participants.

This year, the Black Hills Veterans March, conducted on Sept. 20, had competitors ranging in ages 13 to 61.

"I believe we must be doing something right, the same people come back year after year to participate and volunteer," said Pat Jones, member of the march committee. "All of the comments coming back from the participants were very positive."

There was a large increase in the number of volunteers this year. Several organizations such as the Black Hills Chapter of the Red Cross, the Word of Hope Church and the Rolling Thunder Motor Cycle Club donated time to support athletes at rest stops. Each battalion and major command headquarters in the state's National Guard was in charge of one of the many rest stops along the trail. Several retirees also filled significant roles in the success of the event.

To find out more, please visit the Black Hills Veterans March Web site at <http://blackhillsveteranmarch.com>.

2008 RUNNERS AND RESULTS

1st Place - Female Military: _____ Billi Jo Bierle

1st Place - Female Civilian: _____ Lisa Madsen

1st Place - Female Civilian over 40: _____ Katie Renner

1st Place - Male Military: _____ Andrew Berreth

1st Place - Male Military over 40: _____ Michael Herman

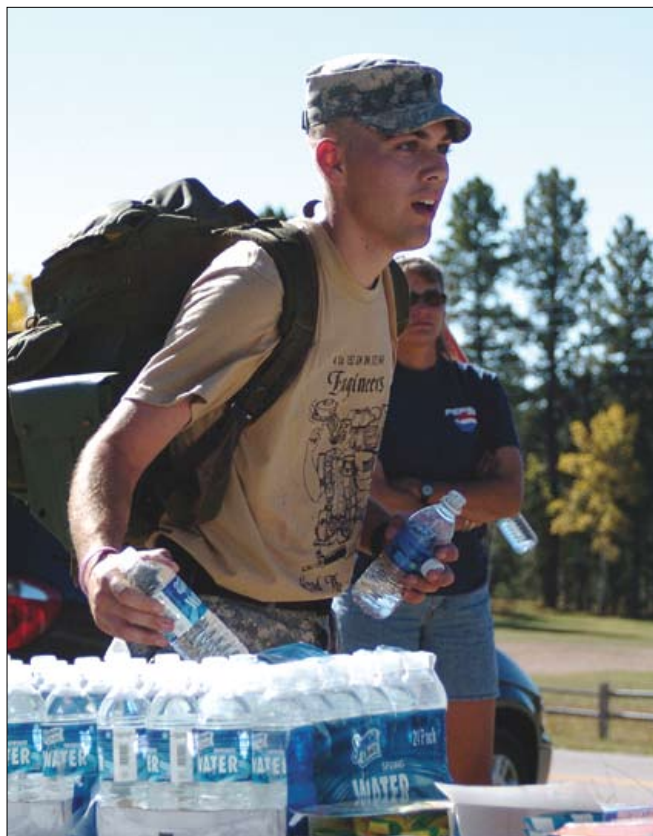
1st Place - Male Civilian: _____ Stan R. Tschetter

1st Place - Male Civilian over 40: _____ Bob Whay

1st Place - Female Military Team: _____ Junior Enlisted Team

1st Place - Male Military Team: _____ 109th RSG

1st Place - COED Civilian Team: _____ HHS, 1/147th FA FSC



Chris Olson, member of Joint Force Headquarters running with a 153rd Engineer Battalion team, grabs a few bottles of water and continues past the 10-mile marker during the 4th annual Black Hills Veterans March in 2007. (Army photo by Pfc. Jesse Ketzner)



Michael Hartung and Tashie Moore from the 740th Transportation Company celebrate after reaching the 10-mile mark during the 4th annual Black Hills Veterans March in 2007. (Army photo by Pfc. Jesse Ketzner)

AWARDS

LEGION OF MERIT



ISG MURPEHY, ROSS _____ TNG SITE DET
COL FLANERY, DENNIS _____ JFHQ DET
CSM BERTSCH, GERALD _____ 196TH RTI

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL



LTC VERCHIO, ANTHONY _____ HHD, 109TH RSG
CPT ANDERSON, BRYAN _____ HHD, 109TH RSG
SSG BOOMER, KELLY _____ HHD, 109TH RSG
MSG MCCARTY, MARK _____ HHD, 109TH RSG
SFC FINCK, TERRY _____ 211TH EN CO
LTC CROYMANS, THOMAS _____ 139TH BSB
CPT YOST, MARTIN _____ JFHQ DET
CPT VOSS, KEITH _____ DET 1, HHS, 1ST BN, 147TH FA
CPT KETTWIG, JASON _____ 196TH MEB
LTC CORUM, STEVEN _____ 114TH FW
LTC WISH, JEFFREY _____ 175TH FS
CMSGT TOWNS, CRAIG _____ 114TH MDG

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL



SGT VOLMER, MARIO _____ JFHQ DET
CPT LLOYD, DAVID _____ HHD, 109TH RSG

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL



MAJ FRITZ, MATTHEW _____ 114TH OSF
CPT HARDIN, JOSEPH _____ 114TH SFS
MAJ ZYDAMARTIN, LESLIE _____ 114TH OSF
CPT PAGE, JODY _____ 114TH CES
SSGT ROTH, CRYSTAL _____ 114TH SFS
MAJ GERBER, ERIC _____ 175TH FS
CPT WIKI, JOSHUA _____ 114TH OSF
CPT KESTEL, CORY _____ 114TH OSF
TSBT GUTE, RONALD _____ 114TH FW
TSBT LEEBENS, RUSSELL _____ 114TH CES
MSGT SCHOLL, PENNI _____ 114TH MDG

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



SFC RATH, MICHAEL _____ 730TH ASMC
SFC KRUSE, JAMES _____ 881ST TRP CMD

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



MSGT SHRIVER, VERONICA _____ 114TH CF
TSBT GREER, SHAWN _____ 114TH MDG

TSBT BROOKS, MARK _____ 114TH LRS
SSGT FROCK, JOSHUA _____ 114TH MXS
SRA DAVIS, JESSI _____ 114TH LRS
TSBT MEYER, NILOFAR _____ 114TH MDG
SSGT SWEENEY, JODIE _____ 114TH FW
SSGT WALLUM, EMILY _____ 114TH FW
TSBT SOBKOVIK, JAMES _____ 114TH FW
TSBT GUTE, RONALD _____ 114TH FW
SSGT FISHER, CHRISTOPHER _____ 114TH LRS
TSBT SATRANG, RODNEY _____ 114TH LRS

ARMY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL



SSG BLACKWELL, JAMES _____ JFHQ DET
SFC POPPEN, JAMES _____ JFHQ DET
MSG SCHRIER, HOWARD _____ JFHQ DET
SFC BENSON, BRIAN _____ JFHQ DET
SFC SMITH, JODY _____ JFHQ DET

PROMOTIONS

CAPTAIN

KYLONEN, BRUCE _____ 730TH ASMC
ELLIS, KOLLIN _____ 175TH FS
PAGE, JODY _____ 114TH CES

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR (E-9)

BURGESSON, MICHAEL _____ HSC, 153RD EN BN
LABER, URBAN _____ TNG SITE DET

FIRST SERGEANT (E-8)

DEYO, DIANN _____ JFHQ DET
KOLDEN, LESLIE AARON _____ HHD, 139TH BSB
MURPEHY, ROSS _____ TNG SITE DET
SCHMIDT, JOHN _____ FSC, 153RD EN BN

MASTER SERGEANT (E-8)

BRANDSRUD, DOUGLAS _____ 196TH MEB
HOFFER, WADE _____ 211TH EN CO
LORENZ, MARVIN _____ TNG SITE DET
MIMMACK, JOHN _____ 196TH MEB
PETERMAN, GARY _____ 196TH MEB

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT (E-8)

GACKE, SCOTT _____ 114TH CES
GERAETS, MATTHEW _____ 114TH FW

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (E-7)

ANDERSON, JEFFREY _____ 200TH EN CO
BEINTEMA, DAVID _____ BTRY B, 1ST BN, 147TH FA
KINSLOW, ERIC _____ 115TH SIGNAL CO
PEERY, BRANDON _____ 740TH TRANS CO
SHEPHERD, JERRY _____ 196TH MEB
TERVIEL, RONALD JR _____ DET 2, 235TH MP CO

TIFFANY, MICHAEL _____ 152ND CSSB
VOSS, BRANDON _____ 196TH MEB
WESSELING, TERRY _____ CO B, 139TH BSB

MASTER SERGEANT (E-7)

JOHNSON, GREGORY _____ 114TH MSG
STEWART, CHRISTOPHER _____ 114TH FW

STAFF SERGEANT (E-6)

BOLLINGER, SHAINA _____ HSC, 153RD EN BN
EBSEN, PAUL _____ DET 1, 211TH EN CO
GOHN, JON _____ BTRY A, 1ST BN, 147TH FA
HARMING, RICHARD _____ 881ST TRP CMD
JUELF, ANSON _____ HSC, 153RD ENBN
LUNDERS, JASON _____ BTRY B, 1ST BN, 147TH FA
NIEWENHUIS, HARLAN _____ 147TH FSC
PODZIMEK, THOMAS _____ HSC, 153RD EN BN
SCHUMACHER, DANIEL _____ 211TH EN CO
STOECKMAN, JONATHAN _____ 740TH TRANS CO
STOKES, JEFFREY _____ DET 1, 1742ND TRANS CO

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6)

BRECH, JERRY _____ 114TH CF
CASTRO, JAVIER _____ NGB/AI
FINCHER, CHARLES _____ 114TH LRS
FISHER, CHRISTOPHER _____ 114TH MSG
INGLE, KODI _____ 114TH OSF
JAMES, WILLIAM _____ 114TH MXS
TOBIN, KYLE _____ 114TH MXS

SERGEANT (E-5)

BUTKE, PATRICK _____ 740TH TRANS CO
CHRISTOPHERSON, MEGAN _____ 730TH ASMC
DUNBAR, BRADY _____ 200TH EN CO
GINSBACH, DUSTY _____ DET 2, 235TH MP CO
GJERNES, MATTHEW _____ DET 2, CO A, 139TH BSB
LOCKWOOD, LEROY _____ 730TH ASMC
SERFLING, JESSICA _____ 730TH ASMC
SIMPSON, COLIN _____ DET 2, 235TH MP CO
TESCHER, ANNA _____ 200TH EN CO
KIELTY, TRENT _____ 730TH ASMC
SCHAVE, BRYAN _____ 730TH ASMC
MILLER, STORMIE _____ 730TH ASMC
WALKER, CRYSTAL _____ 730TH ASMC

STAFF SERGEANT (E-5)

EKEREN, JESSE _____ 114TH AMXS
GREGG, MEGAN _____ 114TH MXS
GRIEME, JONATHON _____ 114TH FW
HEALY, JERROD _____ 114TH SFS
HORSTMAN, WADE _____ 114TH CES
NICKSON, CODY _____ 114TH OSF
REDMANN, KATHREN _____ 114TH AMXS
REZAC, NICKOLAS _____ 114TH AMXS
STARK, MEGAN _____ 114TH LRS
SWIER, JEREMY _____ 114TH AMXS

Family Program volunteers recognized for support

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Volunteers who contributed their time to support the service members and families of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard were recognized on Sept. 13, in Mitchell.

The South Dakota National Guard Family Program annually recognizes a military family, family program volunteer and military member for their volunteer efforts through the Family Program to service members, their families and units.

"These volunteers give hours and hours of their time to make the lives of service members and their families better," said Lynn Wright, family readiness assistant for the Family Program.

Volunteers organize and host meetings, write newsletters, provide training and answer questions for family members. Wright says this is done to help keep families informed and educated about the services available to them.

"The volunteers' efforts are so important because they build the family readiness groups within units, which are a support network for families," said Wright. "This also helps to keep a unit commander informed on family issues."

Award recipients are nominated by individual Guard units, its service members, families or other volunteers. To nominate a volunteer please contact the Family Program office at 605.737.6728.

AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2007:

Family Program Military Family of the Year

Army: David and Barb Huiten Family, Salem, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery

Air: Craig and Rachel VanderZee Family, Sioux Falls, 114th Fighter Wing

Family Program Volunteer of the Year

Army: Shari Lunders, Salem, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery

Air: Sharon Warren, Sioux Falls, 114th Fighter Wing

Family Program Military Member of the Year

Army: Priscilla Harkin, Sioux Falls, 1742nd Transportation Company

Air: Connie Skinner, Sioux Falls, 114th Fighter Wing



David and Barb Huiten Family
Army Military Family of the Year



Craig and Rachel VanderZee Family
Air Military Family of the Year



Shari Lunders
Army Volunteer of the Year



Sharon Warren
Air Volunteer of the Year



Priscilla Harkin
Army Military Member of the Year



Connie Skinner
Air Military Member of the Year

Prepare yourself mentally for holiday season

By Jean Gliedt-Peter
Military & Family Life Consultant
- Support Services Branch



Jean Gliedt-Peter

If we all think back perhaps we remember the ways our families celebrated the holiday season. Whether there were aunts, uncles, grandmas, grandpas, or just mom and dad, some of our favorite memories are etched in our minds. Consequently, the holiday season can result in disappointments, un-met expectations and conflicting emotions.

Whether you plan to celebrate the holiday season with friends or family, or alone, planning ahead of time will alleviate stress, conflicts and bulging budgets. Even though stress is a big part of the holidays, some stress can be alleviated. Here are some great holiday tips:

Set realistic expectations. Many of us set unrealistic expectations. Have a family meeting or take out a pad of paper and list what is important to you or your family. Settle on traditions that feel right for you or your family and create your holiday rituals.

Set a budget and stick to it. Plan for the expenses you think your family will incur. It is ok to explain to your children that many families have financial limitations. Set limits of spending and challenge each other to stay within those limits. Add a "giving" tradition to your holiday rituals that include donating cloths, helping out at a senior center, or by creating artwork with your family and donating it to shut-ins.

Be a kid again. Take some time to enjoy the scenery. Enjoy the lights, watch a traditional holiday movie, make popcorn balls, build a snowman, and take a nature walk – whatever makes you relax for a while.

Get emotional support. If you're missing loved ones who have passed away or a family member can't be there to celebrate, make sure you have a list of people you can reach out to for emotional support. If your spouse is deployed, get together with others who are in your situation. Being with others who are going through the same thing helps prevent loneliness. For emotional support your MFLC is also available @ 605.393.5953.

And remember the picture-perfect family not a reality for many people. Instead of trying from year to year to capture a piece of that "perfect picture," create your own meaningful holiday traditions. Thinking ahead and picturing what your ideal holiday would be like will help you discover what is right for you and/or your family.

For more tips visit "Managing Holiday Stress" @ militaryonesource.com

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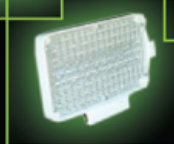
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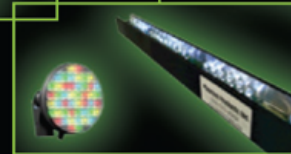
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